

Clapham Common Management Advisory Committee (CCMAC)

Minutes of meeting on Thursday 14 May 2026, 1900 – 2100

The Depot, Clapham Common

Attendees:

Adrian Darley (*Chair*)

Member organisations:

Michael Barry (Clapham Society) (MB)

Gareth James (Wild Clapham) (GJ)

Community Representatives:

Ian Blandford (IB)

Phil Carey (PC)

Lynsey Hedges (LH)

Petr Kaiser (PK)

Clare Frances McMenemy (CFM)

Krishna Siva

Lambeth Council: Paul Smith (PS), Lara Mifsud-Bonici (LMB)

Apologies received from: Ed Glanville (EG) and Joanna Reynolds. In Ed Alnutt's absence, GJ was able to speak for Friends of Clapham Common (FCC). No Councillor members on CCMAC at present, pending new appointments (see Item 2)

1: Matters arising from previous meetings

The minutes of the monthly meeting on 9 April were approved. All actions are picked up in the main agenda items.

2: Implications of Local Election results for CCMAC

The outcome of the 7 May elections in the three local wards means Councillor members of CCMAC will need to be appointed afresh. Our constitution requires there to be *'three London Borough of Lambeth Councillors chosen to reflect the current political balance by and from those councillors representing Clapham Common & Abbeville, Clapham East and Clapham Town wards.'* The seven councillors newly elected for those wards comprise three Labour, two Green and two LibDem, thus implying one from each of those parties should sit on CCMAC. There is no requirement for all three wards to be represented. It will be for each party's whip to determine who should take up a CCMAC role; the Chair is seeking dialogue with the new Green and LibDem councillors (the Labour whip is already familiar with CCMAC), and expects them to agree with their whips who comes forward, in good time for our 4 June meeting.

We will also need to be alert to possible shifts in policy emphasis from the new Green-led Council. It will be particularly important to engage with whomever is appointed to the Stronger Communities lead in the Cabinet (or equivalent role covering parks), in place of ex-Councillor Anyanwu.

3: Events update

LMB drew CCMAC's attention to two new events this summer, in addition to returning regulars:

- Dog Show on 27 June, run by Omnibus Theater in conjunction with Pride. MB noted that the grass area, by the Polygon, will need to be mowed in time, although there is some confusion on the precise location.
Action 3A: MB to send What3Words address to Parks team
- RunThrough half-marathon, understood to be 27 September.

Lucy Zaman (LZ) has completed her secondment; CCMAC has three issues to raise with her once she is back in her lead Events role (vacant for the past year):

- *Lessons learned from the withdrawal of the FootballFest proposal:* whilst Lambeth argue that the promoters had allowed insufficient time to work through all the approval steps, there was evidence the Council had held up processing at some key stages. AD felt it important to provide potential event organisers with more explicit messaging about required timetables and what can and should be expected from the Council.
- *Events Framework:* there is a need to resume progress on this to provide a clearer context for considering future proposals
- *Events Calendar:* CCMAC needs to be added back to the distribution list

Action 3B: AD and CFM to liaise with LZ at appropriate moment

3: Commercial operations update

LMB reported progress on some fronts. The tenancy-at-will agreement with the new operator of the Woodland Café has just been issued, enabling the new operator to start fitting out; it could be open by early July. The long-awaited electrics upgrade for the Bowling Green Kiosk has now been sanctioned, paving the way for the new operator to open a little later this summer. The operator of the Sauna at the Waterplay site has withdrawn its proposal to move to the Bowling Green site for the summer, opting for Battersea Park instead. There will be no progress with the Kiosk at the Windmill Drive Playground until restructuring of staff roles is completed.

LMB has sorted the power supply from the Waterplay for one of the two authorised ice cream vans; she is seeking a more weather-resistant solution for the second, by the Windmill Drive playground. She has also been putting in place a programme of Brand Activation events, more substantial than 2025. CFM offered to act as contact point for CCMAC if music or other aspects of the events were to cause concern.

4: Enforcement update

PS confirmed we still await the start of the new Fixed Penalty regime; Lambeth is currently testing this out on another park where there are specific problems with cycling

encroachment. Ahead of the stronger powers becoming available for the Common too, CCMAC noted several recent or current challenges:

- Extensive car parking on the Common itself in conjunction with a police-monitored funeral at Holy Trinity Church: LMB has insisted there must be no repetition.
- Under-age drinking and cannabis smoking on the basketball courts; LMB has preferred to bring in youth workers to address, although the Police are also monitoring the situation
- Inconsiderate use of electric bikes: the 10mph speed limit that is remotely enforced on to Lime Bikes is working well; LMB needs to redouble efforts to get Forest and Voi to implement the same technical fix.
- Private schools' sports use of the Common: PS was urged to step up his efforts to secure a payment arrangement with Eaton House and London Park (Parkgate has been signed up since last autumn).
- Slacklining: GJ and PS were very concerned about damage to trees caused by using them as anchors for slacklining. There has been no specific policy on the activity, but PS noted the bylaw re protecting trees could be deployed. He encouraged GJ and others to focus any engagement with slackliners on education about the damage caused, and he will bring in the Council's Comms team to get this message out on social media. **Action 4A: PS**

CFM advised we are now about to install the first phase of bylaw signing, having placed the order for tailor-made shared path and pedestrian-only signs. CCMAC applauded her work on this, and on the 'no BBQs' banner signing; PS confirmed the Heras fencing needed for these should be in place next week. LMB reported that the unclear and inappropriate tile signing around Windmill Drive will shortly be removed; she was reminded that the stencilled signs have not yet been refreshed. As for stopping the sale locally of disposable barbecues, it would still be worth getting Sainsburys on board.

Action 4B: LMB to chase Rudy re stencilled signs; PC to remind EG about offer from April to speak to Sainsburys CSO

LMB has been working with GJ and the FCC to secure additional bins, which should be delivered within six weeks. GJ offered Wild Clapham's help in getting these installed, mainly doubling up alongside existing bins to avoid further damage from extending vehicles' collection rounds. This should be followed promptly by preparing for a second phase of installation, starting with a fresh walkaround to identify priority sites.

Action 4C: LMB to monitor progress with first phase delivery, and schedule walkaround with GJ/AD/CFM (and potentially Alison Inglis-Jones) at the appropriate point.

5: Works update

CCMAC noted the great improvement from the new fencing and gates at the [Green Waste Site](#), and thanked GJ for initiating and fast-tracking the project.

Progress was notably slower with [paths resurfacing](#): LMB warned that a new Lambeth directive seeks to prevent use of tarmac on any paths that do not need to be used by vehicles. This may force a change of plan for one stretch of the long-awaited first phase

work (by Culmstock Road), but other stretches should still go ahead with tarmac resurfacing, although there was still no date set. IB noted the challenges that the degraded paths continue to cause for disabled and other vulnerable users of the Common. PK has suggested to the Vicar at Holy Trinity Church that resurfacing of paths closest to them could be picked up as part of their current refurbishment project.

Action 5A: LMB to advise as soon as purchase order process completed, and on any progress with HTC; PC to convene a meeting of the Access, Paths & Signing WG to draw up list of priorities for Phase 2 resurfacing.

Battersea Rise Playground: AD mentioned an impressive investigation carried out by Vanessa Lang, an FCC volunteer, of fellow parent users' views re what improvements were needed. There is a strong preference for keeping the facility targeted at younger children, and so not replicating the changes made at the Windmill Drive playground.

Action 5B: AD to share report with CCMAC, for further consideration

6: Working Groups – progress reports by exception

- 1) *Access, Paths & Signage:* see Action 5A; meeting should also assess progress with bylaws signing.
- 2) *Bandstand Concerts:* MB was pleased to have filled the roster for marshals, two for each of the 14 concerts. He confirmed the need for every Marshal #1 to be at the Bandstand from 1300, and will provide a briefing note detailing the requirements from all marshals. This will include the script for Marshal #1's opening remarks, and the procedure for eliciting donations from the audience. AD explained there may be some challenges with using our two SumUp payment terminals, and CFM suggested as a backup having a QR code for a payment web page. CFM will have the banners promoting the concert series ready for installation next week. **Action 6A: MB/AD/CFM and all Marshals**
- 3) *Bowling Greens & Pavilion:* in abeyance pending opening of Kiosk café and Pavilion facility, but will then need to review prospects for wider reconfiguration of site.
- 4) *Ecology & Biodiversity:* GJ still awaits decision on action to be taken re the underwhelming final report from Logika.
- 5) *Events:* see Action 3
- 6) *Governance:* PC had convened a meeting which formulated our reasonable expectations on procedures for PIL funding for the Common, and agreed some changes to Annual Open Meeting date next spring to increase public engagement with our work; a much earlier opportunity for this could be participation in this year's Abbeville Fete (27 June) **Action 6B: PC to propose dates for full 2027 meeting programme, and to liaise with Alison Inglis-Jones re Abbeville Fete**
- 7) *Sports:* KS's meeting with Simon Harris (Lambeth, Sports) had not secured any fresh commitments re the tennis courts

Adjustments may be made to WG membership once the new Councillor members were in place.

7: Member Group updates

Clapham Society: MB sought CCMAC's view on the next stage of the Society's 'Clean Up Clapham' campaign, now aiming to engage secondary school students, with a focus on creative ideas for painting litter bins to encourage their use. In the limited time available, GJ and others expressed some reservations about the aesthetics of possibly intrusive colouring in the green context of the Common; as an initial reaction, CCMAC suggests working on bins in street locations rather than on the Common, and broadening the project to get students working on other forms of putting across the anti-littering message, through videos and use of social media.

Action 7A: all to pass any further feedback to MB

Action 7B: MB to provide by email the updates where he was timed out on the Clapham North railbridge, and the History Lecterns project (the agenda will be adjusted for the next few meetings to provide more time for Member Group updates)

Wild Clapham and Friends of Clapham Common: GJ gave brief highlights on behalf of both Groups:

- the next FCC litter picking will be on Saturday 23 May. PK reported the need for 40 extra litter-picker devices, given the success in recruiting more volunteers. GJ agreed that in the first instance he should seek funding for this (£480) from FCC.
- the Watering Volunteers Group has resumed work for the summer season; the heavy rains of the last few days do not remove the need for the Group in the coming weeks.
- the new approach to the SUDS beds on Windmill Drive, outlined at the April meeting, appears to be working.
- users of the Common have found upsetting some incidences of birds getting caught in fishing wire left by anglers in the trees surrounding Eagle Pond.

Action 7C: PS to explore with Iain Boulton how anglers can be encouraged to be more responsible and report when their casting causes problems.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 June, 1900, at The Depot.

Minutes drafted by Phil Carey